

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-14, 19, 20 and 22-29 are now in the application. The indication that claims 1-6, 8-13 and 23-26 are allowed and that claim 19 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations from the claims from which it depends is hereby noted with appreciation. Claim 1 has been amended by deleting the phrase “without causing heat degradation or gelling of the polymer”, which is not deemed necessary to distinguish over the cited art. Claim 19 has been amended to place it in independent form. The amendments to claims 1 and 19 do not introduce any new matter and do not limit the scope of these claims. Claims 15-18, 20 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-3, 8-13, 19 and 23-26 are drawn to the elected invention. Claims 7, 14, 22 and 27-29 are drawn to non-elected invention and may be cancelled by the Examiner upon the allowance of the claims directed to the elected invention.

The rejections of claims 15, 16 and 21 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,065,426 to Yamawaki et al. in view of JP 11-292978 A; of Claims 17 and 18 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,065,426 to Yamawaki et al. in view of JP 11-292978 A and U.S. Patent 6,512,039 to Mowrey; of Claims 17 and 18 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,065,426 to Yamawaki et al. in view of JP 11-292978 A and U.S. Patent 5,959,017 to Eck et al. and of Claims 15, 16 and 21 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,065,426 to Yamawaki et al. in view of JP 11-292978 and US Patent 5,842,289 to Chandran et al. have been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes that the pending application is in condition for allowance.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve in any way to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Office is authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21713-00031-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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